Rome Nov^r 22 1865

My dear Maria

I was sorry to hear that you were unwell, my Son Walter told me also that he was going to see you & to take from me £7 which I shall be able to repeat at Xmas all which I am indebted to you & hope to have a nice line from your own dear self, like the last which was charming

Now I hope I trust that what with brothers & nephews you may

chance to receive enough to make you comfortable - do tell me on this point for my Son Walter has asked me & I conclude that he now sends you a regular sum

Was it not cruel that my despatch bag was stolen at Frascati which contained Tom's letter about dear Emmas marriage, so that I knew it only from a letter of my Eleanors but I have just got the 2d letter Tom has written which has given me very great pleasure for Emma

the youngest is a dear dear child &
I am looking about for something
pretty to send her from us my Christmas
present — I am sure that you
will be pleased to hear that my
painting is flourishing for which I
have time enough & that my health
strength & spirits are quite equal to the
many & varied occupations I have
to get thro' & with which I am never
behind — my Eleanor is often
speaking of & praising Cousin Ellen for her
talents, her character & her beauty